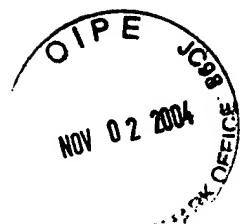


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"PATENT APPLICATION"

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

JEAN-PIERRE TAHON ET AL

U.S. Serial No. 09/689,632

Group Art Unit 1772

Filed: October 13, 2000

S. Hon, Examiner

LIQUID CRYSTAL ALIGNMENT LAYER

Alexandria, Virginia
November 2, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the official action mailed July 2, 2004. Applicants have considered the outstanding official action and respectfully traverse the rejections. Applicants submit that the claims are directed to patentable subject matter as set forth hereinafter.

Applicants initially note that the pending claims are claims 4, 5, 7-12, 14 and 17. Claim 13 has been previously canceled.

The outstanding rejections maintained by the Examiner are as follows:

- (1) Claims 4-5, 7-10 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,118,538 (Escher) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,286,414 (Kämpf);